

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) Triggering An electronic triggering unit for initiating pyrotechnic elements detonators with a control component, a rectifier (12), an energy store (15), a voltage regulator (13), a data coupler (11), a current limiter and a suppressor circuit (10), characterised in that the control component is a programmable microprocessor (20) with integrated programme memory, which is loaded with a programme corresponding to the current requirements during production of the triggering unit or at least before use thereof, the triggering characteristic of the triggering unit being determined by the programme to be loaded.

2. (previously presented) Triggering unit according to claim 1, characterised in that the microprocessor (20) comprises at least

- data inputs (21) and the data outputs (22) and a switching output (24),
- an oscillator.

3. (previously presented) Triggering unit according to claim 2, characterised in that the oscillator can be calibrated by software.

4. (currently amended) Method for operating a triggering unit according to claim 1, characterised in that having a control component, a rectifier (12), an energy store (15), a voltage regulator (13), a data coupler (11), a current limiter and a suppressor

circuit (10), characterised in that the control component is a programmable microprocessor (20) with integrated programme memory, the method comprising loading the microprocessor (20) is loaded with a programme corresponding to the current requirements during production of the triggering unit or at least before use thereof.

5. (previously presented) Method according to claim 4, characterised in that the triggering characteristic of the triggering unit is determined by the programme to be loaded.

6. (previously presented) Method according to claim 4, characterised in that the triggering characteristic of the triggering unit is determined according to the type of control.

7. (previously presented) Method according to claim 4, characterised in that the microprocessor (20) can also process internet protocols.

8. (previously presented) Method according to claim 4, characterised in that the operating software is implemented at random instants on an unprogrammed triggering unit or higher order subassembly (such as detonators).

9. (previously presented) Method according to claim 4, characterised in that the programming lines of the microprocessor are used as data inputs and outputs.

10. (previously presented) Method according to claim 4, characterised in that the switching output (24) can be reinforced by discrete components.

11. (previously presented) Method according to claim 4, characterised in that communication between the triggering unit and the ignition device can be uni- or bi-directional in a demand-driven manner.

12. (previously presented) Method according to claim 4, characterised in that the triggering unit and the ignition device can communicate using various media, such as metallic conductor (cable), optical fibre, ultrasound or high frequency.

13. (new) Method according to claim 4, further comprising generating a trigger signal by the control component and triggering an ignition element with the trigger signal.

14. (new) An electronic triggering unit for initiating pyrotechnic elements, comprising:

a suppressor circuit;

a programmable microprocessor with integrated program memory, the microprocessor being loaded with a program for generating a trigger signal for triggering an ignition element before use of the triggering unit;

a data coupler for level-adjusting reading of information to the microprocessor and for emitting information generated by the microprocessor;

a rectifier;

a voltage regulator for regulating voltage for the microprocessor;

an energy store for supplying current to ignite an ignition element; and
a switching element for receiving a trigger signal from the microprocessor and
for triggering an ignition element.

15. (new) The electronic triggering unit according to claim 14, wherein the energy
store comprises a capacitor.

16. (new) The electronic triggering unit according to claim 14, wherein the
microprocessor is loaded with a program during production of the triggering unit.

17. (new) The electronic triggering unit according to claim 14, further comprising
an ignition element operably connected to the switching element.

18. (new) The electronic triggering unit according to claim 14, wherein the data
coupler, the rectifier, the voltage regulator and the energy store are integrated in the
microprocessor.